

NSO helps students adjust to change

For many of the new students at Gallaudet this fall, New Student Orientation (NSO) is more than taking placement exams, attending orientation workshops, and participating in numerous activities. It's also a time for many students to adjust to taking their first steps into independent adulthood.

As of Aug. 6, 178 new graduate students, 249 new undergraduate students, and 128 new preparatory students had paid their deposits, registering for the fall semester, according to Norma Buemi, coordinator of orientation programs in the Academic Advising Center. She said that more students may be added before orientation starts: Aug. 31 for graduate students, Aug. 29 for undergraduate students, and Aug. 22 for preparatory students. Orientation programs for all students end Sept. 2, and classes begin Sept. 6.

New undergraduates will have student group leaders to help them settle into their new life at Gallaudet. "They are not just guides," Buemi emphasized. These group leaders receive training in everything on the schedule for new students. "They know who is involved and where to go for help if students need it," Buemi said. "They help with retention—so the better trained they are, the better they can help."

"What group leaders and staff are trained to do is to make a warm and comfortable environment," said Russell Olson, executive director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. He added that the group leaders and staff are also trained to help or give guidance to new students.

This year's NSO programs have been abbreviated for some students. NSO for new freshmen is one week instead of two as it has been in the past. And fall NSO for "freps"—preparatory students promoted to freshmen—was eliminated. Instead, the preparatory students had a two-day orientation last spring to learn

about the academic advising program and the course selection process.

"We talked to a lot of people, and they all agreed we can do all the activities in one week," Olson said.

Personnel at the Northwest Campus also strive to provide new students the support they need. In a new mentorship program, each faculty and staff member is assigned three or four new preparatory students whom they will mentor during NSO. The mentoring program was established to help students adjust to college, said NSO coordinator Cynthia Edwards.

NSO for Northwest Campus students will not all be work, Edwards said. Movies, day trips, an ice cream festival, and a scavenger hunt are some of the scheduled activities.

Another new event at the Northwest Campus is a convocation that will kick off NSO the evening of Aug. 22. President I. King Jordan, Vice President for Academic Affairs Roslyn Rosen, and Special Assistant to the President for Advocacy Jack Gannon will speak at the convocation.

Undergraduate orientation begins on the evening of Aug. 28 this year with a picnic at House One for new students and their families and invited faculty, staff, and administrators.

Undergraduate students have a new workshop to attend, "Staying Safe: Sexual Assault on Campus," that will instruct students on protecting themselves from assaults and where to go for help if they need it. Students will also attend a prejudice reduction workshop Sept. 1 given by the National Coalition Building Institute. That evening there will be a cultural sharing where they will be asked to share something from their respective cultures, such as a story or poem.

New for undergraduates' families this year is a Student Services Fair on Aug. 29 in Ely Center where information will be given on 30 programs offering academic support and student development.



(Back row, from left) Charles A. Giansanti, New Faculty Orientation coordinator, greets 1994 NFO participants; assistant professors Dr. Timothy Hanson, Mathematics and Computer Science, Dr. Ian Sutherland, Foreign Languages, (front, from left) Hannah Joyner, History, Dr. Suanne Epstein and Hannah Gershon, Sociology, and teaching assistant Kathryn Hill, Foreign Languages.

Senior citizens to learn about ADA

The grandchildren beg to see "The Little Rascals," but Grandma and Grandpa take them to the playground instead: Because they have lost some of their hearing, the couple haven't gone to the movies for years. If they were more aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they would know that assistive listening devices are available in many movie theaters.

As people grow older, the odds that they will develop some sort of disabling condition increase. Yet in America, where senior citizens represent one of the fastest growing segments of society, many older people are unaware of the ADA, which was signed into law in 1990, and its potential to enhance the quality of their lives.

Gallaudet will play a role in helping older Americans learn about how the ADA can help them get the most out of life when the University's Lifelong Learning Institute, a unit of the National Academy, hosts a conference sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Sept. 28-30.

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Justice, AARP is sponsoring six regional conferences to provide free training on the ADA to advocates and community workers in the field of aging.

Gallaudet was selected from among more than 70 applicants nationwide as the host of the conference serving five Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Debra Busacco, coordinator of the Lifelong Learning Institute, which focuses on older deaf and hard of hearing adults, said that her office was eager to host the conference. "We found it attractive because it will give us an opportunity to network with professionals in aging from neighboring states and really enhance Gallaudet's reputation," she said. "One

of our areas is advocacy, and we thought that training professionals in aging about the implications of the ADA for older adults would fit with our mission."

According to Busacco, up to 50 representatives of aging, legal services, minority, and disability organizations from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., will come to Kendall Green to discuss the ADA, its impact on older people, and ways to improve access for older people in their communities.

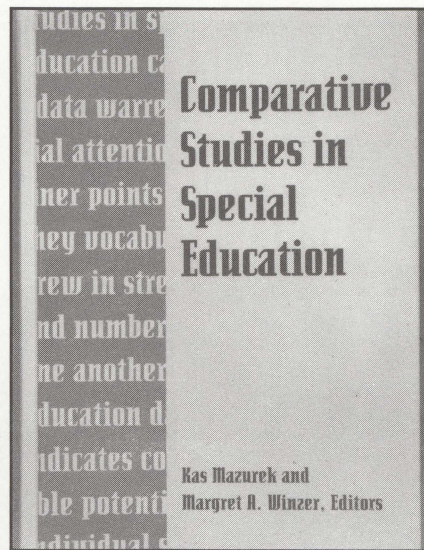
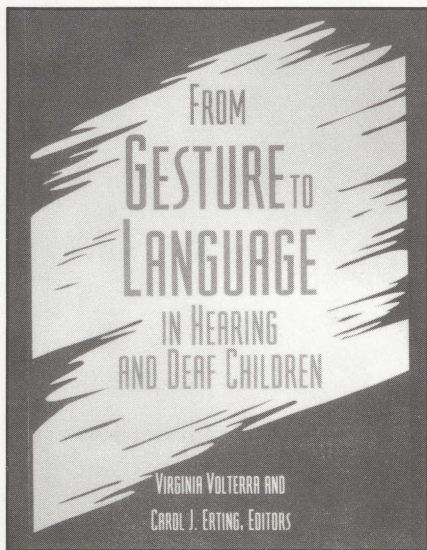
In its grant proposal to the Department of Justice, the AARP cites demographic data indicating that the estimated 31.2 million older adults who live in the United States today will more than double, to around 66 million, by the year 2030. As people age, they become more vulnerable to hearing and vision losses. Currently, one-fourth of the population over 65 and one-third of those over 75 experience some hearing loss. AARP also pointed out that "someone who became deaf at age 70 is unlikely to know sign language and thus may need accommodations other than an interpreter."

Ada Albright, legal training coordinator for AARP, said the conference will provide an overview of the ADA, review case law, and examine some ongoing issues and ways to resolve them through the dispute resolution process. There will also be a "training of trainees" event, where 16 of the participants will receive intensive training on techniques and presentation skills to help educate people in their communities when they return home.

The other conferences scheduled to date will be in Portland, Ore.; Denver, Colo.; Bloomington, Ind.; Jackson, Miss.; and Boston, Mass.



Students from the Ag Paraskevi School for the Deaf, Athens, Greece, in town for the Close Up program, present a bust of Alexander the Great to Jack Gannon, accepting on behalf of Gallaudet.



Press publishes three new books

Three books published recently by the Gallaudet University Press should prove enlightening to anyone interested in learning more about the development of language in infants, special education programs around the world, and social and educational conditions for deaf people in France compared to those in the United States.

"No introductory course in child and language development will be complete without this book," scholar William Stokoe states in the foreword to *From Gesture to Language in Hearing and Deaf Children*. The book con-

tains 21 essays by international experts that discuss the use of gestures by prelingual infants who are learning language, whether spoken or signed. Virginia Volterra, who researches language development in deaf and hearing children, and Dr. Carol Erting, director of the Culture and Communications Studies Program, a division of the Gallaudet Research Institute, edited the book.

Past research has shown that deaf children and hearing children of deaf parents communicate first by using gestures, then "baby" sign language. This book demonstrates that all children, not only children exposed to deaf culture, use gestures and home-made signs as infants.

Comparative Studies in Special Education, edited by Kas Mazurek and Margaret Winzer, professors at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, looks at international special education programs for all populations of people with disabilities, including deaf people. For example, the book examines limited programs in the Gaza Strip, the emergence of special education in Pakistan, segregated special education in Russia, and integrated special education programs in the United States.

According to Dan Wallace, marketing coordinator for the Press, the book is a unique publication—there apparently has never been such a comprehensive book before—that can be used to help evaluate special education programs.

Parallel Views: Education and Access for Deaf People in France and the United States, edited by the French-American Foundation, presents topics from the 1991 Paris conference "The Deaf in Society: Education and Access," which analyzed educational access and social attitudes in the two countries.

In his introduction to the book, Harlan Lane, a professor at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., and a noted deaf rights activist, states that in France most deaf children do not complete high school and that France has just begun to offer French sign language courses. By contrast, in the United States, 10,000 deaf students attend college, and 1,000 American Sign Language courses are offered for credit.

Parallel Views is a book that will be useful for professionals or others who are involved in deaf studies or the deaf community, said Ivey Pittle Wallace, managing editor of the Press.

The books can be purchased at the Press, located in the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Room G-13, and at the Gallaudet Bookstore.

Present status of ADA discussed

When Andrew Firth went to the hospital last year after injuring his shoulder, the first thing he was asked was if he wanted an interpreter.

Without the four-year-old Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the hospital would not have offered an interpreter, said Firth, a staff attorney in the National Center for Law and Deafness, in a recent lecture held in Ely Auditorium. Firth spoke on the topic, "Americans with Disabilities Act: Where are We Now?" and focused on the ADA's impact on the deaf community.

The ADA has brought about progress, said Firth. For example, state telephone relay services have been established, and employers can only ask about a deaf applicant's qualifications, not the applicant's deafness.

However, according to Firth, compliance with the law is not consistent, and there is still a lot of work left. Those who do not comply with the law are being challenged in many instances, said Firth, who cited some recent ADA victories. Courts and police in Florida and Utah have agreed to provide interpreters. Accounting review and bar exam review classes that would not provide interpreters did so after they were sued by the Department of Justice.

Well-known deaf actress Terrylene sued Burger King restaurants for refusing to serve her when she bypassed where customers speak into a microphone and placed her order directly at the food pick-up window. In a settlement, Burger King agreed to develop new technology so deaf people can use the restaurant's drive-through services, said Firth.

Access to 911 services have also improved under the ADA, he said. New York City, Los Angeles, and Berkeley, Calif., are among the cities that have agreed to provide 911 access to deaf people.

Other challenges remain, said Firth. For example, doctors often refuse to

provide interpreters. Although the Department of Justice has not yet filed a major lawsuit against interpreters and medical services, the state of New York's attorney general recently filed an ADA lawsuit against a large medical group in New York that refused to provide interpreters.

Also, there are more complaints about the skill levels of interpreters, said Firth. New interpreters often are unqualified, and that hurts deaf people. Title III of the ADA states that public accommodations must provide auxiliary aids and services, such as qualified interpreters or captions, but if the auxiliary aid is of poor quality, he said, the ADA is worthless.

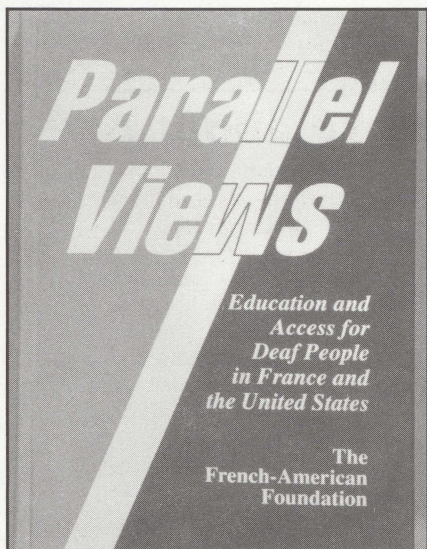
According to Firth, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the National Association of the Deaf are discussing solutions to the problems.

Adequate legal access is also a problem. There are not enough lawyers willing to work with deaf people on ADA complaints. "If a deaf person can't find a lawyer, then the law itself [is] worthless," said Firth.

In addition, communications technology is changing rapidly. The deaf community must take a proactive approach and "be careful the door [does] not close," Firth warned. Already, advocates are working to make sure new communications technology is accessible to deaf people.

In his conclusion, Firth reminded the audience that "again, we have made progress, but much work remains." As the recent lawsuits indicate, the ADA has the potential to improve life for the deaf community. "We must never forget that when we get together as a community, [we] can accomplish great things, and we have the power to make sure that the ADA reaches its full potential," he said.

The lecture was part of the Deaf Enrichment and Arts Festival lecture series, sponsored by Continuing Education and Outreach in the College for Continuing Education.



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Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Written ads must be submitted in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Ads received Aug. 22-Sept. 2 will be printed Sept. 12. Because of the Labor Day holiday, *On the Green* will not be printed Sept. 5.

WANTED: Female to share 2-BR apt. in D.C. or Md. Call (202) 307-3196 (TTY) days or (202) 388-5165 (TTY) after 6 p.m.

FOR RENT: 1 BR w/priv. BA in 2-BR apt. in Greenbelt/Seabrook, Md., to nonsmoker, pool and spa privileges, \$350/mo. incl. elec. Call (301) 595-8843 (V/TTY) after 6:30 p.m., or Jay at (301) 794-7067 (V/TTY) 9 a.m.-noon.

FOR RENT: 2-BR apt. less than 1 block from Kendall Green. Call (301) 773-1710 (V/TTY) or (301) 322-7372 (V).

WANTED: 3-BR apt. in NW D.C., Takoma Park, Md., or Silver Spring, Md., near bus/Metro, need immediately. Call Linda Lee, (202) 232-4431 (V).

WANTED: Fingertalk tutor to practice receptive skills, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Tues., Thur., on campus, fee negotiable. Call E. Walsh (703) 257-1662 (V).

FOR RENT: Apt. in walking distance to Kendall Green, 633 Orleans Place, upstairs

unit, separate entrance, secure, new paint and carpeting, owner willing to accommodate deaf tenant. Call Ms. Gaither, (301) 774-9719 (V) and leave detailed message.

FOR RENT: 1-BR w/priv. BA in Silver Spring, Md., condo. W/D, pool, spa, no pets, must have a car, near Metro, one grad student or professional female preferred, avail. Sept., \$350/mo. plus ½ elect. Call (301) 890-2435 (TTY).

WANTED: 2- to 3-BR townhouse or apt., walking distance to Metro, to buy or rent by new Gallaudet faculty member. Call Tim Hanson, x5306.

FOR SALE: Imagewriter II without cable and Mac printer, \$200. E-mail RLBOYD.

FOR RENT: 1 BR in Alexandria, Va., to nonsmoker, grad. student or professional preferred. Must love dogs and have own trans. Avail. immediately, \$350/mo. plus ½ util. Call Jane, (703) 768-3818 or E-mail JNORMAN.

FREE: Female deaf Cocker Spaniel, 4 years old, needs home, very loving. Call Suzi (703) 644-1292 (V).

WANTED: Student or couple to share 4-BR house in Silver Spring, Md. Occupants interested in learning ASL. \$450/mo. incl. util. Call (202) 651-5306 (V).

FOR RENT: Large BR and private BA to nonsmoker in 4-BR townhouse in Forestville, Md., W/D, CAC, 20-min. drive to Gallaudet, couples OK, \$350/mo. plus util. Call (301) 420-4689 (eves.) or (301) 571-8777 (days).